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CIA Danger To Thai, Writer Says

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BANGKOK (AFP) — A columnist of the influential afternoon daily Siam Rath has warned the new government of the possible danger posed by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Citing the past CIA record in South Vietnam and Cambodia as an example, columnist Kasen Atchayasai wrote that overthrow was likely in any developing country whose regime was found to pursue policies contrary to U.S. interests.

Because of the big interests of the United States in Thailand, it was unlikely that the American government would approve any sudden change in Thai policies, the columnist wrote.

HE SAID that although the CIA had played no part in the recent student uprising that led to the change in government, it was very likely that the agency was watching closely any change which might result in damage to U.S. interest.

He pleaded that the government use astute judgement towards the Americans as to avoid any repeat of the bloodshed that occurred Oct. 14.

"This is not an attempt to incite the Thai government to expel the GI's or abandon relations," the article said.

"What is wanted is that the government should proceed to find means to win bargains for the reduction of U.S. power in a more suitable way. It should not allow the United States to do just as it pleases, as it has in the past."

Meanwhile, in Washington, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Monteagle Stearns told Congress that the U.S. Government foresees no need for basic changes in its policy towards Thailand because of the collapse of the military regime.

"THE UNITED STATES expects no change in the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding that characterized U.S.-Thai relations in the past," he said.

He added that the United States expected to provide such support and assistance as was necessary to maintain Thailand's security and promote its economic development. "We expect to continue our dialogue with the Thai government regarding the U.S. military forces in Thailand, bearing in mind the mutual security interests they serve and the sovereign prerogatives of our Thai hosts," he said.

Commenting on the American presence in Thailand — six military bases, 35,000 troops — the Thai foreign minister confirmed that the ultimate goal was "total withdrawal."

However, he added, "it will take time and it depends on the situation."

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